

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 SCCT-01

IGA-01 /085 W

----- 012869

P R 181155Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8997

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2576

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US SU

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY SUDANESE ACTING FONMIN

REF: KHARTOUM 2566 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DURING INITIAL CALL NOVEMBER 16, AMBASSADOR TOLD ACTING FONMIN HIS RETURN BETOKENED NEITHER DIMINISHED INTEREST IN CONTINUED DETENTION EIGHT MURDERERS IN EGYPT NOR RESUMPTION NORMAL AID RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE DISAPPOINTED, ACTING FONMIN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND CONFIRMED THAT GOS DESIRES RESUMPTION FULL RANGE NORMAL CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY SOME 24 WORKING DAY HOURS AFTER WE REQUESTED APPOINT-
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MENT, ACTING FONMIN (AND MIN CULTURE & INFORMATION) OMAR

AL-HAJ MUSA RECEIVED ME FOR CORDIAL INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 16. MUSA APPEARED RELAXED AND MOST FRIENDLY. HE SPOKE OF SUDANESE DIFFICULTIES IN PAST MONTHS OWING TO OIL PRICE HIKES AND GENERAL ECONOMIC WOES. HE CLAIMED AFRICANS HAD INITIALLY SUPPORTED OIL PRICE BOOST AS ARAB WEAPON PUT PRESSURE ON USG BUT ISSUE HAD GOTTEN OUT OF HAND AND WAS UNDERMINING LDC ECONOMIES WHILE PRODUCERS RECEIVING VAST SUMS THEY COULD NOT SPEND (PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS RECENTLY SPOKEN PUBLICLY IN SIMILAR VEIN). MUSA FELT AFRICANS NOW BEGINNING REALIZE GENERAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK EXTREMELY SERIOUS. I RESPONDED WASHINGTON ALSO MOST CONCERNED AS RECENTLY MADE PLAIN BY SECRETARY IN HIS CHICAGO SPEECH, COPY OF WHICH I UNDERTOOK PROVIDE MUSA.

3. TURNING TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, I THEN TOLD MUSA I WAS HAPPY BE BACK AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MY GOVERNMENT AND LOOKING FORWARD TO RESUMPTION NORMAL OFFICIAL CONTACTS. IT WAS MY IMPRESSION PROCESSING AGREEMENT NEW GOS AMBASSADOR PROCEEDING NORMALLY. AT SAME TIME, I DID NOT WISH HIDE FROM HIM CONTINUING CRITICISM MY GOVERNMENT AND AMERICAN PEOPLE RE GOS ACTION IN RELEASING CONVICTED MURDERERS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONLY OTHER DAY NEWSMAN IN NEW YORK HAD ASKED WHETHER ARAFAT'S BODYGUARDS INCLUDED KHARTOUM MURDERERS. I STRESSED TO MUSA THAT MY RETURN IN NO WAY DIMINISHED OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUED DETENTION THOSE EIGHT OR IN COMBATTING TERRORISM GENERALLY. NEITHER DID IT IMPLY ANY REVOCATION OF CURRENT "HOLD" ON NEW USG ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN, WHICH WE HAD BEEN COMPELLED INSTITUTE IN WAKE GOS ACTION. WE NEVERTHELESS HOPED NORMAL CONTACTS COULD NOW BE RESUMED. THIS CONNECTION, I TOLD MUSA WE WERE PLEASED BE ABLE APPROVE VOLAG REQUEST FOR TRANSFER SMALL QUANTITY FOODSTUFFS FROM SCHOOL FEEDING IN SOUTH TO RECENT FLOOD RELIEF EFFORT THERE. I ALSO TOLD MUSA WE HAD BEEN GRATIFIED AT THE FULL COOPERATION OF GOS IN FACILITATING RELEASE ALL TENNECO HOSTAGES IN SEPTEMBER.

4. MUSA RESPONDED HE HAD NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON MY PRESENTATION. PERSONALLY HE FELT CONTINUED SUSPENSION OUR AID MADE IT APPEAR SUDAN BEING "PUNISHED", PARTICULARLY IN VIEW ITS LEAST DEVELOPED NATION STATUS AND FACT GOS HAD DONE MORE RE TERRORIST CASE THAN MOST OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN SIMILAR INSTANCES. HE ADMITTED GOS MIGHT HAVE ACTED DIFFERENTLY HAD SUDAN BEEN LOCATED

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"NEXT TO SOUTH AFRICA" BUT CLAIMED POLITICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC FACTS OF LIFE HAD MADE IT NECESSARY FOR GOVERNMENTS TAKE ACCOUNT OF ARAB ATTITUDES ON PALESTINE BY RELEASING MURDERERS. MUSA CLAIMED SOME ARABS IN MONTHS FOLLOWING SUSPENSION OUR AID HAD ENDEAVORED GET NIMEIRI TAKE STEPS TO WORSEN RELATIONS WITH US ON GROUND USG EXERTING "PRESSURE" AGAINST SUDAN. NIMEIRI HAD REFUSED, DENYING PUBLICLY THAT ANY PRESSURE USED. NIMEIRI REPORTEDLY HAD TOLD HIS ARAB INTERLOCUTORS THAT SUDAN SEEMED

TO BE DISAPPOINTING BOTH SIDES IN TERRORIST CASE.

5. I TOLD MUSA WOULD NOT USE WORD "PUNISHMENT" MYSELF BUT IT WAS TRUE THAT USG, CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC REMAINED CONCERNED AT UNACCEPTABLE GOS ACTION. THIS ALL THE MORE TRUE SINCE ONE OF MURDERED MEN HAD BEEN PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. WE HAD HAD REPEATED ASSURANCES FROM GOS AT ALL LEVELS THAT JUSTICE WOULD BE DONE. MANIFESTLY THIS HAD NOT HAPPENED. KEY ELEMENT IN PRESERVING FABRIC RELATIONSHIPS AMONG NATIONS WAS MUTUAL CONFIDENCE THAT GOVERNMENTS MEANT WHAT THEY SAID. LOOKING SHAMEFACED, MUSA ASSERTED LAMELY THAT USG AS SUPERPOWER SHOULD OVERLOOK SUCH ACTION ON PART ONE OF WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES. I REITERATED USG ASSISTANCE REMAINING IN SUSPENSE.

6. MUSA SAID HE WOULD REPORT MY COMMENTS TO PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, WHO MIGHT WISH SEE ME HIMSELF PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR INDIA NOV 26. I SAID I WAS NATURALLY AT PRESIDENT'S DISPOSAL.

7. COMMENT: MY "RE-ENTRY" APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WELCOMED BY SUDANESE EVEN THOUGH THEY COULD HARDLY HAVE EXPECTED ME TO BEAR GIFTS. SHORT ITEM RE MY CALL ON MUSA WAS FEATURED ON GOVERNMENT RADIO NOVEMBER 16 AND IN ALL PAPERS NOVEMBER 17. OVERALL REACTION, INCLUDING MUSA'S COMMENTS, MAKES CLEAR GOS PLEASED BY THIS USG DECISION. MUSA WAS PERSONALLY MOST CORDIAL IN WELCOMING ME BACK, EMPHASIZING GOS DESIRE RESUME FULL RANGE NORMAL TIES AND ENCOURAGING ME CONTACT HIM PERSONALLY AT ANY TIME AS WE HAVE DONE HERETOFORE.
BREWER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KHARTO02576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740332-0618
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741135/aaaabdfp.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: KHARTOUM 2566 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY SUDANESE ACTING FONMIN
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, SU, (MUSA, OMAR AL-HAJ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005